

Message Text

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LIMDIS

DEPT PASS DHEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY COOPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY OSCI USEGJC

SUBJECT: NEW EGYPTIAN NAMRU POLICY AGREEMENT DRAFT AND VIEW ON
MEDICAL COOPERATION

1. DR. AHMED MAZEN, UNDERSECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
HAS NOW PROVIDED US WITH COPY OF A DRAFT HEALTH AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ARE AND USG, WHICH MINHEALTH MOHIE EL DIN WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS
AND PERHAPS SIGN AT UPCOMING JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION.
MAZEN TELLS US HE GAVE COPY OF DRAFT TO DRS. COOPER AND EHRlich
AT WHO MEETING IN GENEVA IN MAY. ASSUME DRS. COOPER AND
EHRlich HAVE PROVIDED ADDRESSEES WITH COPIES OF DRAFT AGREEMENT.

2. APPENDED TO DRAFT HEALTH AGREEMENT AS ANNEX I, IS DRAFT
"POLICY AGREEMENT OF NAVAL UNIT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH NAMRU/3".
LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, PRESENT MINHEALTH MOHIE EL DIN
HAS BEEN ANXIOUS CONCLUDE NEW NAMRU POLICY AGREEMENT TO
SUPERSEDE OLD 1947 AGREEMENT, WHICH CONTINUES TO BE BASIS FOR
NAMRU OPERATIONS. GOE CONSIDERS THAT THE 1947 POLICY IS NOW
COMPLETELY OUT OF DATE AND IN NEED OF REVISION. WE TEND TO AGREE
THAT OLD AGREEMENT IS OUT OF DATE, BUT HAVE OPPOSED SOME OF THE
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CHANGES THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD LIKE TO MAKE. AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT

IN PAST INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EGYPTIANS HAVE HAD TO DO WITH (A) EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO HAVE NAMRU DO MORE RESEARCH STIPULATED BY MINHEALTH AS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO GOE, (B) APPLICABILITY OF EGYPTIAN LOCAL LAW TO NAMRU FSL'S, (C) DESIGNATION OF AN EGYPTIAN CO-DIRECTOR FOR NAMRU AND (D) IN GENERAL GREATER MINHEALTH CONTROL OF NAMRU ACTIVITIES. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT ISSUE WAS ACUTE SOME TWO YEARS AGO (JUNE 28, 1973), WHEN PREVIOUS MINHEALTH MAHFOUZ SOUGHT UNILATERALLY TO WRITE IN HIS DESIRES WHEN A LEASE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. THE CO OF NAMRU REJECTED THAT EFFORT. ISSUE HAS SIMMERED EVER SINCE, ALTHOUGH LAST YEAR AMBASSADOR OBTAINED FAHMY'S INTERCESSION TO DISSUADE MINHEALTH FROM PUSHING IT. NEVERTHELESS, EGYPTIAN OBJECTIVE TO REVISE NAMRU POLICY AGREEMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED.

3. PROPOSED DRAFT, AS CONTAINED ANNEX TO HEALTH AGREEMENT, IS AN ESSENTIALLY WATERED-DOWN VERSION PRESENTED BY PREVIOUS MINHEALTH, WHICH WAS JUDGED UNACCEPTABLE. IN STUDYING DRAFT WITH NAMRU CO MINER, IT IS CLEAR THERE ARE MANY OBJECTIONABLE POINS IN NEW DRAFT. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED, BUT WE DO NOT CONSIDER JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION AS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR RENEGOTIATION OF THIS MATTER. IF DEPT/SECNAV (BUMED) CONCUR, WE BELIEVE MINHEALTH MOHIE EL DIN SHOULD BE TOLD SO WITHOUT DELAY. IT MAY, OF COURSE, BE USEFUL IF ADVANTAGE IS TAKEN OF MOHIE EL DIN'S AND CAPT MINER'S PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON TO HAVE BUMED AUTHORITIES DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH MINHEALTH WITH A VIEW TO LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS HERE IN CAIRO. CONSIDERATION OF BASIC DRAFT HEALTH AGREEMENT CAN BE CARRIED ON SEPARATELY, SHOULD EGYPTIANS WISH TO SIGN IT TO DRAMATIZE UPCOMING WASHINGTON JWG MEETING. WE WILL PROVIDE OUR COMMENTS IN SEPTTEL.

4. WE (EMB/NAMRU) WILL SUBMIT OUR OBJECTIONS TO NEW EGYPTIAN DRAFT NAMRU AGREEMENT AND ALSO WHAT FEASIBLE REVISIONS THEREOF MIGHT BE MADE.
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